COPELAND FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ontario

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

COPELAND FOREST

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA

MANAGEMENT PLAN

April 1984

PREFACE

This management plan, is written for a 20 year period to the year 2004. It is the first approved management plan for the Copeland Forest Resources Management Area and is consistent with the Huronia District Land Use Guidelines. All programs within the District have had formal input to the plan and accept the contents as written. The plan has been approved by the Copeland Forest Resources Management Area Planning Committee which will be dissolved upon approval of the plan.

District Manager _____

Services Supervisor _____

Fish and Wildlife Supervisor _____

Area Conservation Officer _____

Area Superintendent _____

Forest Management Supervisor _____

Approved by District Management Committee

1994.03.05 _____
DATE

_____
DISTRICT MANAGER

Approved: 1994.05.01 _____
DATE

_____
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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INTRODUCTION

The Copeland Forest Resources Management Area, (Figure 1) is a 1754 hectare property purchased by the Province from Simcoe Timber Lands Limited in 1978. This forested area has supplied forest products to a succession of sawmills located on the property. In addition to timber the area has important hydrological resources including the headwaters of three major coldwater streams; the Coldwater and Sturgeon Rivers and Willow Creek. Wildlife resources are abundant and of excellent quality as are botanical resources with at least half of the known plants species in Simcoe County represented. Historical resources relating to pioneer agricultural activities and lumbering are also present.

Copeland Forest is situated within a large valley which has become an important recreational area. Three ski resorts are located immediately south of the property and two of these resorts are evolving into year round multi-faceted operations; including condominiums, time share units and a residential community.

Integrated resource management is the strategy which has been selected for managing the area. It is an approach which is being applied throughout the province, especially in southern Ontario, where lands are coming under increasing pressure to fulfill a multi-functional role.

This document is the end result of a comprehensive planning program initiated in 1979. It contains a set of policy statements and related guidelines designed to aid area managers in making consistent, rational management decisions and to provide a reference against which to measure the progress and success of management programs.

The plan is to be in effect for a twenty year period. Reviews will be conducted at five year intervals to confirm that implementation is proceeding in sympathy with the plan and to make adjustments in response to changing needs and circumstances.

Plan preparation has been the responsibililty of the Copeland Forest Planning Team consisting of the Huronia District Manager, District Program Supervisors, the Area Superintendent, a Conservation Officer, and a representative of the former owners of the property.

LOCATION AND ACCESS

Copeland Forest is located in South Central Ontario approximately 115 km north of Toronto within the County of Simcoe. Barrie, Orillia, Midland and Collingwood, the county's four largest urban centres, are situated to the south, east, north and west of the area respectively.

Access to the area (Figure 1) is provided by two provincial highways and a local service road. Highways 400 and 93 intersect at the northwest corner of the area. Highway 400 is the major artery serving the area and connects directly with Metropolitan Toronto while Highway 93 is a two lane highway connecting Barrie with Midland and Penetanguishene.

Immediate access to the property is provided by Ingram Road, a municipal gravel road. It intersects with Highway 93 immediately south of the 400/93 interchange.

MIDLAND 28 km

MOONSTONE

COLDWATER 5 km

N

HILLSDALE

MT. ST. LOUIS

FLOS TWP.

I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX

INGRAM RD.

P

RAILWAY

PACIFIC

CANADIAN

COPELAND FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA

CRAIGHURST

MEDONTE TWP.

ORO TWP.

BARRIE 10 km

ORILLIA 12 km

19 93 400 22

Figure 1

ACCESS

1000 0 1000 2000 metres

- MULTI-LANE HIGHWAY
- PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY WITH MARKER (9)
- COUNTY ROAD WITH MARKER (2)
- LOOSE SURFACE ALL WEATHER
- LOOSE SURFACE DRY WEATHER
- RAILWAY
- INTERCHANGE
- OVERPASS
- P PARKING LOT
- COPELAND FOREST BOUNDARY

Cartography by C Martin, 1984

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Goal Statement

The Ministry of Natural Resources' goal for the Copeland Forest Resources Management Area shall be to ensure the long term protection of the area's natural and cultural resources through the fully integrated implementation of resource management programs. Together, the programs will provide educational and recreational opportunities and resource products for the continuous social and economic benefit of the people of Ontario.

The Goal Statement identifies two principles which will guide the implementation of this plan.

- each resource management program will be designed to ensure the long term protection and improvement of natural or cultural resources.

- all resource management programs will be fully integrated with each other so that whenever possible, benefits may be shared and conflicts avoided.

Objective Statements

The following objectives are presented in order according to the priority they are to be given during implementation of management programs. Reference to this ranking will enable managers to avoid or resolve conflicts between programs. Whenever possible conflicts will be resolved in a manner which will achieve the objectives of more than one program. The targets by the year 2000 for these objectives are presented in table 1.

The objectives are:

- to provide, on a year-round basis, 4,000 opportunities for a variety of educational activities. These opportunities may be utilized by people of all ages in both formal and informal settings.

- to provide, on a seasonal basis, 7,200 opportunities for consumptive recreational activities. These will include hunting of various wildlife species and fishing for various coldwater fish species.

- to provide at least 14,000 opportunities on a year- round basis for a wide variety of non-consumptive recreational activities including but not limited to non-motorized trail oriented activities, picknicking, camping, wildlife viewing and various special recreation activities.

- to provide, on a sustained yield basis, a supply of resource products including 5,500 m^3/yr of timber and 350 furbearer pelts.

- to contribute to the tourism economy of the Georgian Lakelands Tourist Region by achieving the recreational targets listed above, hosting about 12 special events annually and by providing about 20,000 cross-country skiing opportunities annually to adjacent resorts.

Table 1: Targets For Education Recreation and Resource Production

Objective	Annual Use		Percentage of District Target to the year 2000
	Current (1983)	Target (2000)	
Education			
(opportunities)	2,000	4,000	Not applicable
Recreation			
(Opportunities)			
.hunting-Total	3,200	3,800	Not Applicable
-Archery	800	800	Not Applicable
-Black Powder	500	500	5%
-Small game	1,300	1,600	2%
-Waterfowl	600	900	2%
.fishing	2,600	3,400	.1%
.picnicking	0	4,800	.6%(of existing day-use)
.group camping	2,000	4,000	Not Applicable
.hiking	800	1,600	Not Applicable
.horseback riding	200	400	Not Applicable
.cross-country skiing(public)	1,200	3,000	Not Applicable
(resort)	18,000	Not applicable	Not Applicable
.snowshoeing	100	300	Not Applicable
Resource Production			
.timber(m^3/yr)	2,000	5,500*	2%
.fur pelts (#)	200	350	1%
Special Events			
(Approximate)	6	12	Not Applicable

*timber target is for the year 2020

ZONING

Zoning is a commonly employed planning tool used to organize the management of land on the basis of differences in types of permitted uses.

Each zoning designation (Figure 2) is defined by a set of permitted activities or land uses and management policies. An inventory and evaluation of natural and cultural features is used to determine application of the respective designations to the area.

Access Zone

Facilities for public vehicles will be located within this zone and will include roads, parking lots and secondary facilities such as signs and traffic barriers. The zone consists of several, relatively small areas located at or near the boundary of the property. The function and location of each area within the zone is as follows:

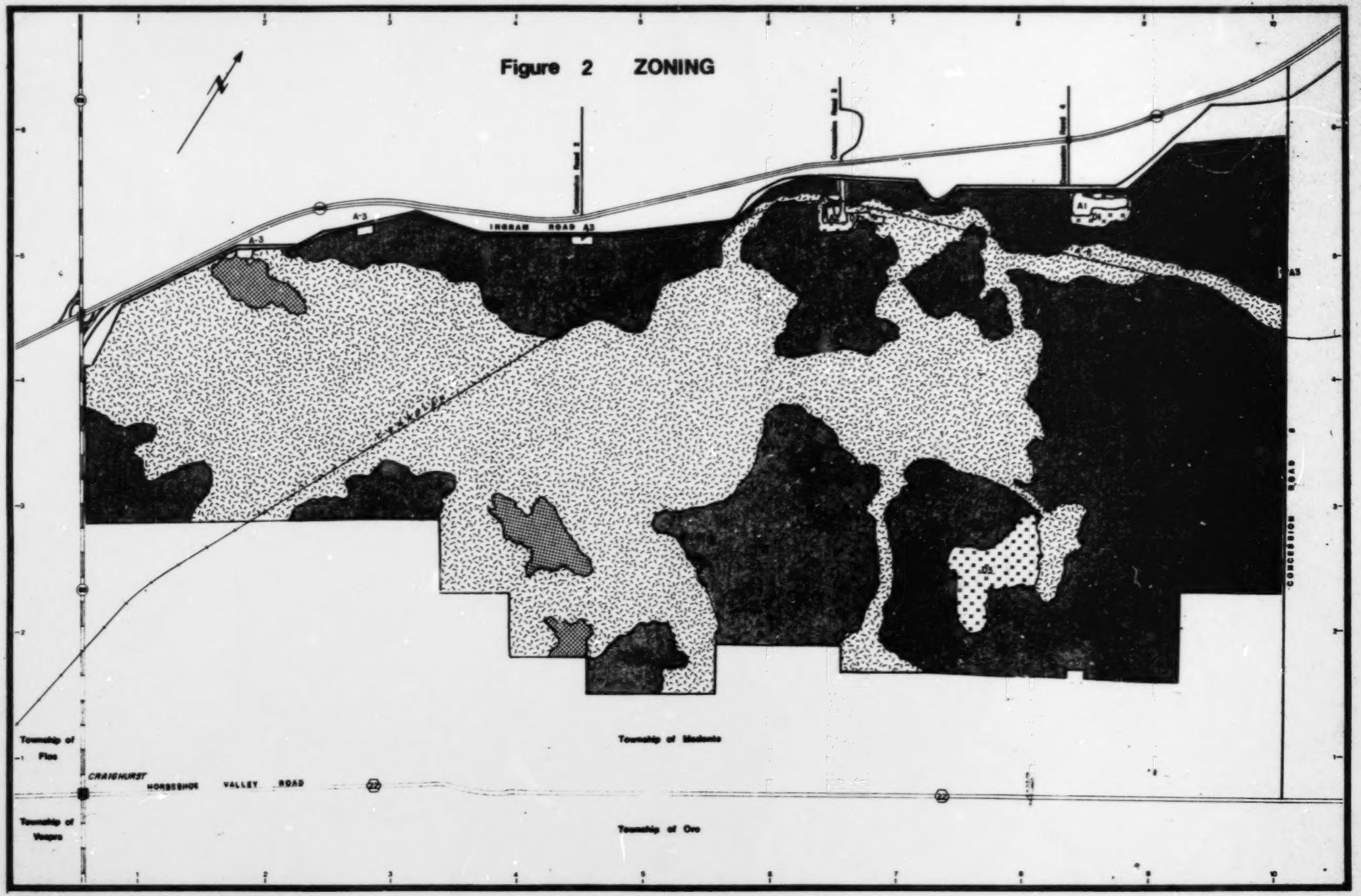
A-1: This area will function as the primary year-round point of access to the property for visitors wishing to participate in non-consumptive day-use type recreation activities. It's location, adjacent to the north property boundary and equidistant between two Highway 400 interchanges, (Highway 93, Mount St. Louis Road) places it in close proximity to the areas to be most heavily used for these activities.

A-2: This area will function as a year-round access point for groups participating in various educational and/or recreational activities. By using the facilities in this zone each group will be able to prepare for their respective activity free of interference from other users. The zone is located immediately south of the Canadian Pacific Railway right-of-way, adjacent to Medonte Township, Concession Road Three. A parking lot presently occupies a portion of this zone.

A-3: This area's primary function will be to provide access for visitors participating in various hunting activities. A secondary function will be to provide access for members of other user groups when hunting seasons are not in effect. The zone consists of two, small, separate areas each capable of accommodating a limited number of vehicles (maximum - 5). They will facilitate the even distribution of hunting activity and permit non-hunting users greater access to the area.

The areas are located immediately adjacent to the property boundary and require no new roads for their use.

Figure 2 ZONING



COPELAND FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA

800 0 800 1600 2400 metres

- PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY
- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- ACCESS ZONE
- DEVELOPMENT ZONE
- INTEGRATED LAND MANAGEMENT ZONE
- INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT ZONE
- NATURE RESERVE ZONE

Development Zone

The areas within this zone may be modified to accommodate management activities and intensive visitor use. Facilities for picnicking, group camping, orientation, interpretation and education as well as visitor service, administration and maintenance will be concentrated in this zone. It consists of three separate areas. The function and location of each is as follows:

D-1: This area, adjacent to A-1, will function as the primary visitor service area with facilities for user orientation, education and personal comfort as well as for picnicking. It will also function as the central access point to the area's extensive trail network.

D-2: This area, adjacent to A-2, will function primarily as the operational centre for the property and will accommodate administration and maintenance facilities as well as equipment and material storage. A secondary function will be to accommodate facilities for outdoor education activities and various other activities requiring space for indoor assembly.

D-3: This area will function as a centre for groups involved in various educational or recreational activities. No permanent buildings will be constructed in the area. Rather, facilities will be limited to those necessary to support picnicking and group camping.

Integrated Water Management Zone

This zone restricts resource management programs to protecting and/or improving water resources.

Included in the zone are streams, ponds, seepage areas and associated buffers.

Facilities will be related primarily to water management programs and may include such activities as erosion reduction, water control structures and stream flow gauging stations. Secondary facilities may include hiking/cross country skiing trails within buffer strips.

Forest management activities may include removal of wood products where such removal will not compromise water management objectives. Generally, forest management activities should be designed to improve forest cover.

Wildlife management activities may include some habitat improvement activities as well as various types of hunting activities and trapping.

Fisheries activities including fish habitat improvement projects, will be featured in this zone.

Non-consumptive recreation activities will be restricted to some limited trail oriented activities in locations where they will not impact adversely upon water resources and easily eroded or compacted soils.

Integrated Land Management Zone

This zone will accommodate a wide variety of resource management programs and recreation activities.

All aspects of the forest management program may occur including tending and harvesting, site preparation and planting.

Wildlife management programs may include intensive habitat improvement projects some of which may be achieved by unique silvicultural prescriptions. Hunting programs may occur within this zone.

A wide range of recreation activities will be accommodated within this zone including numerous trail oriented activities, picnicking, group camping and various other special events.

Nature Reserve Zone

This zone will provide protection for botanical resources considered to be particularly sensitive to human disturbance and/or significant due to the presence of rare or endangered plant species.

The zone consists of three separate areas. Within each area a buffer has been incorporated to secure the zone's protection objective.

No development will be permitted within the zone and public use of it will be limited to research projects approved by the Area Superintendent.

MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Management Committee

Implementation of the management plan will be guided by the Huronia District Management Committee (DMC) and the area superintendent.

Resolution of conflicts, between various management programs will be the most important of the committee's responsibilities in dealing with the area.

Decisions regarding the specific location of various facilities and use of the property by special interest groups as well as the co-ordination of public reviews of the plan to monitor its implementation will also be handled by the DMC.

Superintendent Position

The area superintendent will be the only complement staff position assigned to the area and will be responsible for supervision of part time staff, as well as coordination of all management activities and visitor use.

Staff from the forest management, fish and wildlife and parks and recreation areas programs will be involved in the implementation of their respective management programs. However, scheduling of their activities will be subject to the superintendent's approval.

The superintendent will relate any management problems and concerns to the DMC and make recommendations relating to possible solutions.

The superintendent will be primarily responsible for visitor management including the scheduling of various special event recreation activities, educational activities, maintenance of user facilities including road maintenance, garbage removal and grass cutting.

Management Guidelines

The successful operation of the area will depend, in part, upon the resolution of potential conflicts both among Ministry resource management programs and with user groups. Two types of restrictions will be used to reduce or eliminate the potential for these conflicts.

- Temporal
- Spatial

Temporal restrictions involve the allocation of specific blocks of time to individual or groups of management programs and/or recreation activities. Hunting seasons are an example of this type of restriction.

Spatial restrictions involve the allocation of specific areas within the property for individual or groups of management programs and/or recreation activities. Zoning provides the basis for these restrictions.

In some cases the satisfactory resolution of conflicts between two or more resource management programs may require reference to a list of the area's objectives which have been ranked according to their relative importance.

Through time, this process will develop a greater tolerance between management programs and user-groups, and contribute to more effective understanding of resource interests.

Land Acquisition

Approximately 63 ha of land in the area is classified as opened and unopened road allowances and are owned by the Township of Medonte. These allowances represent a potential hindrance to effective enforcement of various regulations especially those pursuant to the Public Lands Act and the Game and Fish Act. Therefore all road allowances will be purchased by the province.

MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The resource management programs and activities described in this section have been designed to be mutually complementary. Each is to be implemented in a manner which recognizes the objectives of other programs and, whenever possible, benefit other programs. The timetable for these activities and progams is shown in figure 3.

Outdoor Education

Education:

The area's education objective will be met through implementation of three closely related programs; education, interpretation and communication.

Organized groups of all ages may be involved in educational programs in the area. Most groups will be from elementary and secondary schools located within Huronia District. Groups may use the area on either a day use or residential basis (ie. camping).

Teachers will be actively encouraged to develop and use curriculum which is related to the ministry's management programs in the Area. Towards this end, ministry staff will become involved in the preparation and review of curriculum material and may participate in professional development workshops and, occasionally, in demonstrating resource management to classes of students.

Educational groups will be permitted to use a portion of the administration/maintenance facility for classroom based activities.

The impact of educational activities upon the area's soils and vegetation resources will be monitored. It may become necessary to place restrictions upon the amount of use which some areas receive.

Interpretation:

Interpretive programs designed to enhance knowledge and appreciation of the area's resources and management programs will be developed and implemented.

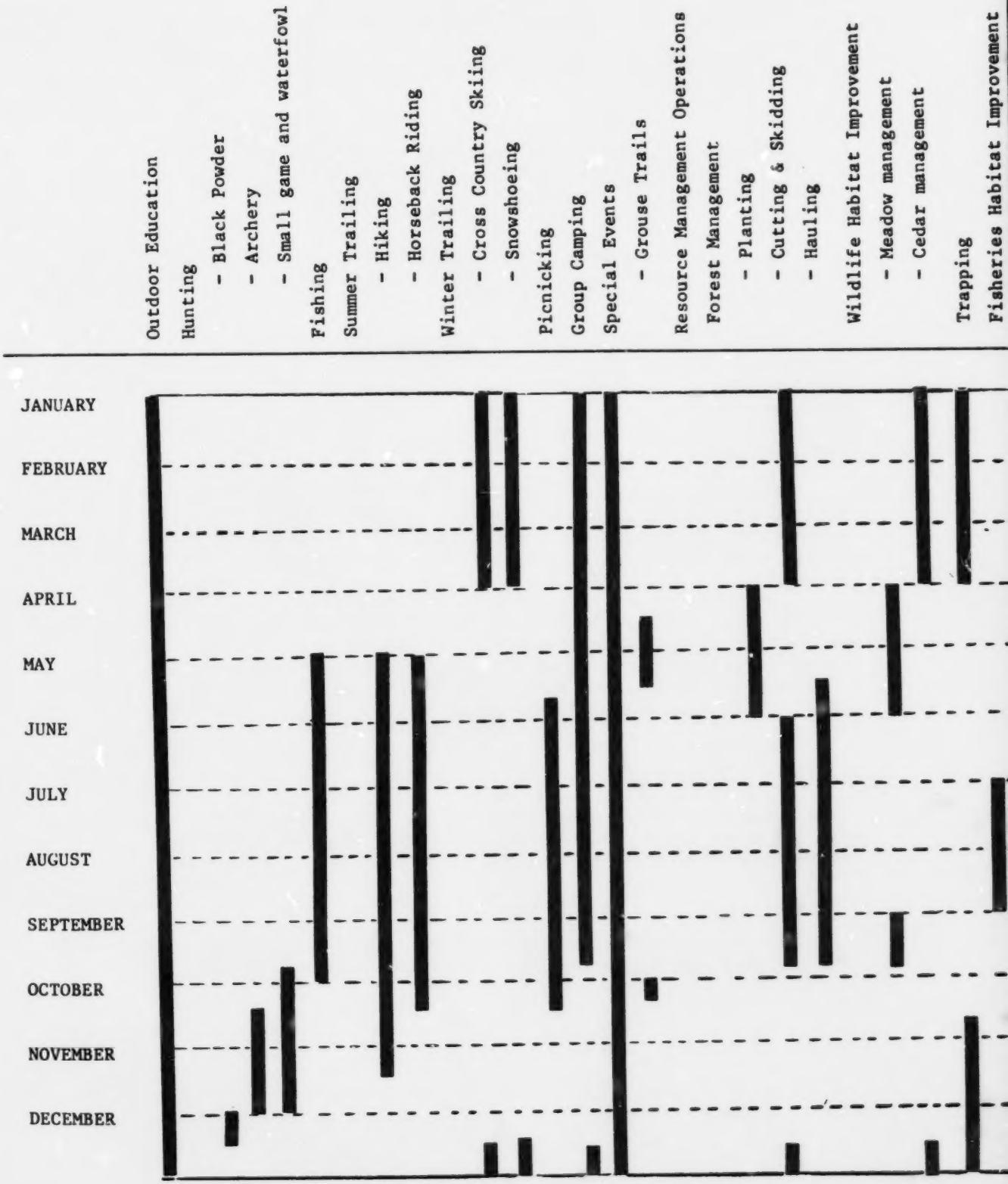
Interpretive programs employ themes as a means of organizing information relative to the resources of an area. The following interpretive themes have been identified for the Copeland Forest:

Major themes:

- integrated resource management as an proactive approach to resource protection.

- the scope and significance of the water resource

FIGURE 3: Copeland Forest Resources Management Area
Operations and Activities Timetable



Minor themes:

- . the diversity of plant species and rare plant populations.
- . the diversity and multiple use of a managed forest.
- . the diversity and multiple use of wildlife populations.
- . the settlement and lumbering industry based on this forested area.

The principle components of the program will be publications, self-use displays and trails. They may be used singley or in various combinations and in a manner which will expose all user groups to the messages being presented.

Publications may present interpretive messages dealing with single themes or groups of themes. They may be oriented towards portions of the trail system.

Self-use displays will be designed to withstand exposure to all types of weather and to readily facilitate the changing of display materials. Displays will be strategically located adjacent to access zones and on the trail system.

Communication:

The communication program is closely associated with the interpretation program and will share the publication and display components. Mass media may also be used in this program to expose the public to activities which are based on the appropriate use of natural resources.

To allow visitors to have an enjoyable visit it is essential that they be provided with information regarding orientation, the resources of the area, the nature of the management programs being implemented, MNR policies regarding use of the area as well as information on the location and use of other MNR managed lands in Huronia District.

Recreation Management

The goal of the recreation management program shall be to provide opportunities for a wide range of consumptive and non-consumptive recreation activities.

Hunting:

Hunting activities, by their nature, possess considerable potential for conflict with other types of recreation and resource management

activites. Three modified seasons will be used to provide and control hunting opportunities:

- black powder
- archery
- conventional firearms

Seasons will be established through provincial regulations pursuant to the Game and Fish Act. The regulations may be altered from time to time in response to changes in wildlife populations and hunting pressure. They will stipulate the number of hunters, the type(s) of hunting weapons which may be used, the area which may be hunted and the numbers of each species which may be taken.

For the black powder deer season hunters will apply for a special permit in advance of the season and permits will be issued on a lottery selection system. During this limited season no other types of hunting will be allowed.

The numbers of hunters participating in the other two hunting seasons will be limited by the number of specially signed parking spaces available within Access Zone A-3. The number of spaces available each year may vary but will never be greater than 20.

Fishing:

Fishing for natural fish stocks may occur in the three major streams and their tributaries.

The activity will be subject to provincial and federal regulations pursuant to the Game and Fish Act and the Fisheries Act dealing with daily creel limits and fishing methods.

Fishing for stocked rainbow trout may be provided in the existing man made ponds (Ponds No. 2 and/or 4). The pond will be utilized for educational programs dealing with fly tying and fly fishing skills as well as by the general public.

Trail Oriented Activities:

Access to the resources in the area is on the existing system of roads and trails. Constructed and maintained to facilitate lumbering activity, the system will require little expansion or alteration and minimal maintenance. All trail user groups will share the 35 km system on a seasonal basis.

A comprehensive signage system will be used which will permit users to easily identify and follow any one or combination of the loops which make up the system.

"Trail head" facilities located in development zones D-1 and D-2 will permit access to the entire system for all user groups. Those requiring additional space or potentially conflicting with other user groups will be able to use Access Zone A-2. Groups involved in horseback riding, sleigh riding, dog sledding and other similar activities will use this area.

Access to the system in the summer will also be available through Horseshoe Valley Resort primarily for resort patrons involved in hiking and horseback riding.

A portion of the trail system will be used by patrons of Horseshoe Valley and Medonte Mountain resorts each winter. These resorts will maintain a cross-country ski trail network under rental agreements which allow each of the resorts to control use of the trails and to maintain them to their high standards.

Members and visitors of the Pine Ridge Ski Club will also have access to cross country skiing opportunities in the area. However, the club will not maintain trails on the property

Horseback Riding:

The ministry will work with the Ontario Trail Riders Association to administer equestrian activity. The activity will be monitored for the five year period leading to the first major review of this plan. Data will be collected and analyzed and impacts upon soils and vegetation and other user groups will be documented. The ministry will then be able to more accurately determine the demand for riding opportunities, the facilities and policies required to administer the activity.

Riding will be restricted to the summer and fall seasons (May 1 to October 30) and to Sundays only during the small game hunting season.

Picnicking:

Picnicking is an activity which may occur in settings supported by numerous types of facilities (e.g. tables, shelters, vault toilets and garbage receptacles) or in settings with little or no facilities.

The ministry will maintain three formal sites for this activity and informal picnicking will be discouraged. The largest site located in D-1 will contain tables, two small shelters, a small play field, vault type toilets and garbage receptacles.

The other two sites will be located in D-2 adjacent to A-2 and in D-3. Facilities in each will be limited to a few tables, vault toilets and garbage receptacles. In total there will be approximately 20 tables for the three sites.

Camping:

Camping in the Copeland Forest will occur on a year round basis and will be restricted to group camping only.

Youth groups (18 years of age and under) associated with educational, church, non-profit and other philanthropic organizations will be permitted to use the camping facilities. No fee will be charged to such groups.

Adult groups belonging to organizations having a recognized goal and objectives in sympathy with the area's goal and objectives will also be permitted to use the area's facilities. These groups will be charged a user fee.

An advance reservation system will be used to administer use of the four sites. Youth groups will be given higher priority than adult groups.

Groups will be encouraged to gain access to the site on foot in summer and on snow shoes and cross country skis in the winter. The number of vehicles permitted into the area will be restricted to those required for transporting camping supplies to and from the area, for emergency use or other appropriate needs.

The number of users participating in this activity will be restricted to approximately thirty (the size of one class) per site plus supervisory personnel.

Special Events:

Special events are defined as resource oriented, outdoor recreation activities which occur only once, once per year or infrequently and involve organized group(s) of people. In some cases they require the use of a staging area, special equipment and/or accessories. The area involved in each event may be very limited or extensive.

These activities will be administered through a system requiring the group or organization involved to submit a letter of request to the area Superintendent well in advance of the event.

Some special events may tend to conflict with other activities in the area. The DMC will determine which events may be accommodated within the area. The superintendent will ensure that events do not conflict with resource management or other recreational activities.

Wildlife Management

The goal of the area's wildlife management program is to implement management activities which will stimulate production of the greatest possible population and variety of bird and animal species that the habitat can sustain. Opportunities for wildlife hunting and viewing and production of animal furs through trapping activities will be provided as a direct result of the wildlife management program.

Manipulation of natural habitat (food, water and shelter), population management and supplementary feeding are the three major wildlife management programs.

Habitat Management:

Wildlife habitat manipulation involves projects designed to improve the quality and/or quantity of the three habitat components. Management activities will attempt to achieve a balance between each habitat's potential and the populations utilizing it. The widest possible variety of habitats will be maintained and emphasis will be placed upon developing "edges" between different habitats.

For planning purposes, wildlife habitat has been divided into eight types:

- cedar
- upland hardwoods
- mixed hardwoods and other conifers
- red oak plantings
- poplar
- fruit trees
- meadows and trail edges
- ponds

A wildlife habitat management plan prepared by district staff will provide detailed direction for the management of each habitat type.

The most important wildlife species in the area is white tailed deer. Historically, the area has been a wintering yard and accommodates an existing seasonal herd ranging in size from 100 to over 200 animals

Cedar is the most important habitat type for the wintering deer herd. Stands are densely stocked and have been heavily browsed. Neighbouring habitat types especially mixed hardwoods and other conifers also supply food and cover. Most habitat management activity directly related to deer will occur near cedar stands and will consist primarily of clear cutting to stimulate the regeneration of deer browse (food) in association with dense natural cover.

In some cases, the management of habitat types will be designed to meet a combination of wildlife and forest production objectives. Actual operations may be conducted as part of the forest management program using prescriptions designed to increase benefits to wildlife populations.

Cultivation of various field crops and legumes in meadows will be an important component of wildlife habitat management in the area. These crops will provide significant quantities of feed for a number of wildlife species. In some cases existing meadows may be utilized for forest management operations such as log landing areas only after consultation with fish and wildlife staff. New meadows will be created in appropriate areas as the result of Forest Management activities or wildlife habitat improvement.

Water management structures such as dams and dykes may be used to improve waterfowl and fur bearer habitat and may occur where other resource values will not be compromised.

Other forms of habitat improvement may include the use of man-made nesting boxes.

Habitat improvement projects will be implemented in a manner which will permit the involvement of local organizations devoted to natural resource conservation.

Population Management:

Population management objectives will be achieved through hunting and trapping programs and the possible re-introduction of extinct species such as wild turkeys.

Hunting and trapping seasons can be an effective tool for controlling the populations of some wildlife species. Regulations governing these seasons will be reviewed periodically and altered as necessary to reflect

changes in population levels and habitat quality. Various types of surveys will be used on a regular basis to collect data on population levels.

Trapping on the area since 1966, has been directed at the following species:

beaver	racoon
muskrat	fox
mink	coyote

Muskrat and beaver are the most commonly taken species.

Trapping can be a very effective population management tool provided that the activity is sensitive to changes in population size and health. It will be restricted to one licenced trapper and controlled by quotas placed upon specific species.

Consideration must also be given to the potential for conflicts between trapping and other activities. Trapping will occur during fall and early winter in areas not heavily used for other activities. The resident trapper will be required to inform the area superintendent regarding the location of areas where traps are set.

Supplementary Feeding:

Supplementary feeding of white tailed deer will be an on-going program in the area during the winter. It will be secondary to a program of improving natural browse.

Consumption of supplementary feed will be monitored and diets altered in an attempt to provide the most suitable diet. An improvement in herd health and a reduced mortality rate will be the two benefits of this program.

Forest Management

The forest management program will play an influential role in the overall management of the area's resources.

The objective of producing, on a continuous basis, the maximum volume of quality forest products while contributing benefits to other resource management programs in the area will be met through specialized silvicultural practices. Planting of coniferous species, clear cutting and scarification, tending and harvest cuts in hardwood and softwood stands will be the most often used practices. Specific prescriptions which define the type of silvicultural activity to be applied will be the mechanism used to integrate and acknowledge special resource values (ie. the retention of wildlife den trees, and the production of deer browse).

A forest management operating plan has been prepared. It contains detailed descriptions of how each forest working group will be managed for a ten year time period. A second ten year plan will be prepared in 1989 to guide operations for the duration of the planning period.

The forest working groups which comprise the area's forest cover are as follows:

Softwoods	
cedar	white spruce
hemlock	jack pine
white pine	scots pine
red pine	European larch

Hardwoods	
hard maple	other hardwoods (red maple
white birch	black cherry
poplar	red oak
	white oak)

Tending cuts will be designed to improve the growth rates of desirable specimens. In softwood plantations initial tending cuts will include the removal of entire rows as well as selected trees within rows. Pulpwood and posts will be the forest products produced initially. Poles and saw logs will be produced during subsequent cuts.

In hardwood stands fuelwood will be the primary product produced by initial tending cuts. High quality saw and veneer logs will be generated by subsequent harvest cuts.

No harvest cuts are anticipated in either softwood or hardwood stands for a ten year period. When such cuts occur they may range from highly selective removal of top quality specimens to clear cuts.

Clear cutting will occur only in specific cases. Stands of mature or unproductive lower value softwood species (jack pine and scots pine) may be removed in this manner to permit rapid conversion to more valuable species. In other cases dense cedar stands may be clear cut to improve white tailed deer habitat.

Spraying of herbicides to control herbaceous vegetation and assist early growth of plantations will be used only when other methods fail to provide adequate control.

Spraying will be used to control insect infestations which are considered to have potential for inflicting significant damage to timber resources. The application of all chemicals will occur in a manner which will ensure the safety of people using the area, those living nearby, as well as fish and wildlife populations.

Cutting, skidding, hauling, site preparation and planting are the five principle operational activities required to implement the forest management program. Cutting, skidding and hauling will occur most frequently and will usually be carried out by private sector operators.

The following management guidelines have been developed in an effort to minimize the potential for conflict with other programs.

.Operations will be restricted to an operating "season". Within this season operations may occur only on weekdays.

- .Skid trails and wood assembly areas to be used during each cut will be designated by area superintendent and will (whenever possible) be reused. Yarding areas will be maintained as meadows between cuts.

- .Trails forming components of the recreational trail system may not be used as skid trails but may be used for hauling upon the approval of the area superintendent.

- .Skidding and hauling of materials will not occur during periods when saturated soil conditions could result in damage to roads and trails.

- .Operators working in the vicinity of roads and recreational trails will be required to maintain them in a debris free condition.

- .Operations, especially cutting and hauling will be administered through district cutting licences. Conditions will be added to each licence as necessary to ensure implementation of these guidelines.

- .Operators will be required to leave skid trails and log landings in a condition that is suitable for planting as determined by the area superintendent.

Fisheries Management

The management of indigenous populations of coldwater fish species in the area will be linked with the water management program.

Within the area, streams will not be stocked and fishing activity will be subject to regulations established under the Game and Fish Act.

One pond may be stocked with rainbow trout to meet the fishing pressure generated by educational groups involved in fishing skills development programs.

The outflow from one or two ponds may be utilized in a trout hatching program using up-welling boxes.

Two ponds (#1 and #3, Figure 4) may be used to produce bait fish which will be harvested by local bait fish dealers. Planting of approved "seed" stock in the ponds may be permitted.

Water Management

A comprehensive water management program is required to ensure that an abundant supply of fresh water is available to support all other water dependent resources and water based recreation activities.

The resource is described under three headings:

springs and seepages
streams
ponds

Protection for each of these components is to be provided by a buffer zone.

Springs and Seepages:

Protection of these ground water sources will be the highest ranking priority of the water management program. Trapping, hunting and outdoor education are the only activities which may occur in the vicinity of springs and seepages. Educational activities will only be permitted at one site which will be protected through use of a carefully designed and constructed boardwalk.

Water will be pumped on a seasonal basis (winter) from a man-made pond adjacent to a major spring site on the property by Medonte Mountain ski resort and used for artificial snow making on the resort's alpine ski slopes. The existing water control structure will be reconstructed and maintained by the ministry.

Streams:

Many of the area's streams have potential to sustain natural coldwater fish populations especially brook and rainbow trout. Water quality and quantity, and overhead and instream cover are all excellent.

Therefore, stream courses will be managed so as to maintain or improve populations of these and other fish species. Stream flow may be altered by various types of weirs and deflectors designed to improve spawning habitat and/or prevent erosion of stream banks.

The stabilization of eroding stream banks will also be achieved through planting programs using various herbaceous and woody shrubs. Improvement of spawning habitat may be achieved through the addition of gravel to stream beds.

Ponds:

A system of six man made ponds will be maintained in the area. Existing structures will be replaced by bottom draw structures and dams will be improved as necessary to prevent wash outs.

Ducks Unlimited has constructed an earth fill dam and control structure to create the largest pond in the area (Pond #1). The primary purpose of this 5 ha pond is to provide habitat for nesting and migratory waterfowl. Furbearers will also benefit from this project.

An active beaver population has created numerous natural ponds in the area. They serve to control water flows but also result in the warming of stream water, an undesirable effect on cold water fish species. In most cases beaver ponds will not be altered. However, steps will be taken to control beaver activity if they threaten other resources such as roads or trails, fish spawning beds or timber resources. In these cases dams will be removed and beaver will be trapped.

Cultural Resources Management

All cultural resources of the area are related to recent settlement. While some of the resources relate to agricultural development prior to 1854, most relate to the lumbering industry. None of the resources can be considered to be of provincial significance.

The resources consist of:

3 buildings
4 foundations
stone fences and rock piles
road network
remnant apple trees and lilacs

Two of the buildings (an office/company store/post office building and a mill foreman's residence) were directly associated with the village of Martinville and the lumbering activities of the 1900s. The third, a log cabin, was moved into the property from its original location in Tiny Township in the 1940s, and was used as a recreational retreat by the previous owner.

All three buildings are sufficiently sound structurally to be capable of accommodating continued use and all will be retained provided that maintenance costs do not become excessively high.

Office/Company Store/Post Office

The interior of this building will be altered to form two rooms. The larger of the two will be suitable for group assembly of visitors involved in special event recreational and edcuational activities while the smaller room will serve a storage function.

Mill Foreman's Residence:

Administration/maintenance functions will be accommodated in this building until such time as a new facility is constructed. At that time the structure will be used for storage of equipment and materials required for the various resource management programs and for outdoor education programs.

Log Cabin

Due to its small size, this structure is not well suited to uses which require assembly of groups of people larger than 20.

Its age, location and excellent condition make it a resource worthy of preservation. In future it will be utilized on an advanced reservation basis for special events which require a facility for indoor assembly and/or storage.

Foundations and Stone Fences:

These are the most readily identifiable indicators of past agricultural activity in the area and will not be removed. Portions of stone fences may be disturbed to accommodate forest management operations in coniferous plantations. Such disturbance will be minor in nature and will not diminish the character of the resource.

Stone foundations may be a hazard to recreational users especially during winter months when snow may obscure them.

The shrub growth and brush which presently obscures foundation sites will be removed and some work may be required to stabilize walls.

Road Network:

The roads were developed over several decades for lumbering activity. They range from dry, well drained roads capable of bearing all season traffic to those which are seasonally wet or suitable for winter use only.

Maintenance of the entire network would be too costly and is considered impractical and unnecessary. That portion of the network which will be managed as a recreational trail system will be an adequate representation of the road network.

Fire Management

Wild-fires will not be allowed to run their course in the area. They will be extinguished as quickly as possible by MNR personnel and local municipal fire brigades.

A fire fighting equipment cache will be maintained at the property and ministry staff working in the area will be trained in its use. Also, groups using the campground will be given instruction in the use of water pack cans and hand tools. Campers and picnickers will be required to build fires in fire pits only.

The fire hazard will be monitored and the area superintendent will be authorized to enforce a ban on open fires during periods of high or extreme hazard.

Controlled burns will not be used in the course of carrying out forest management silvicultural operations.

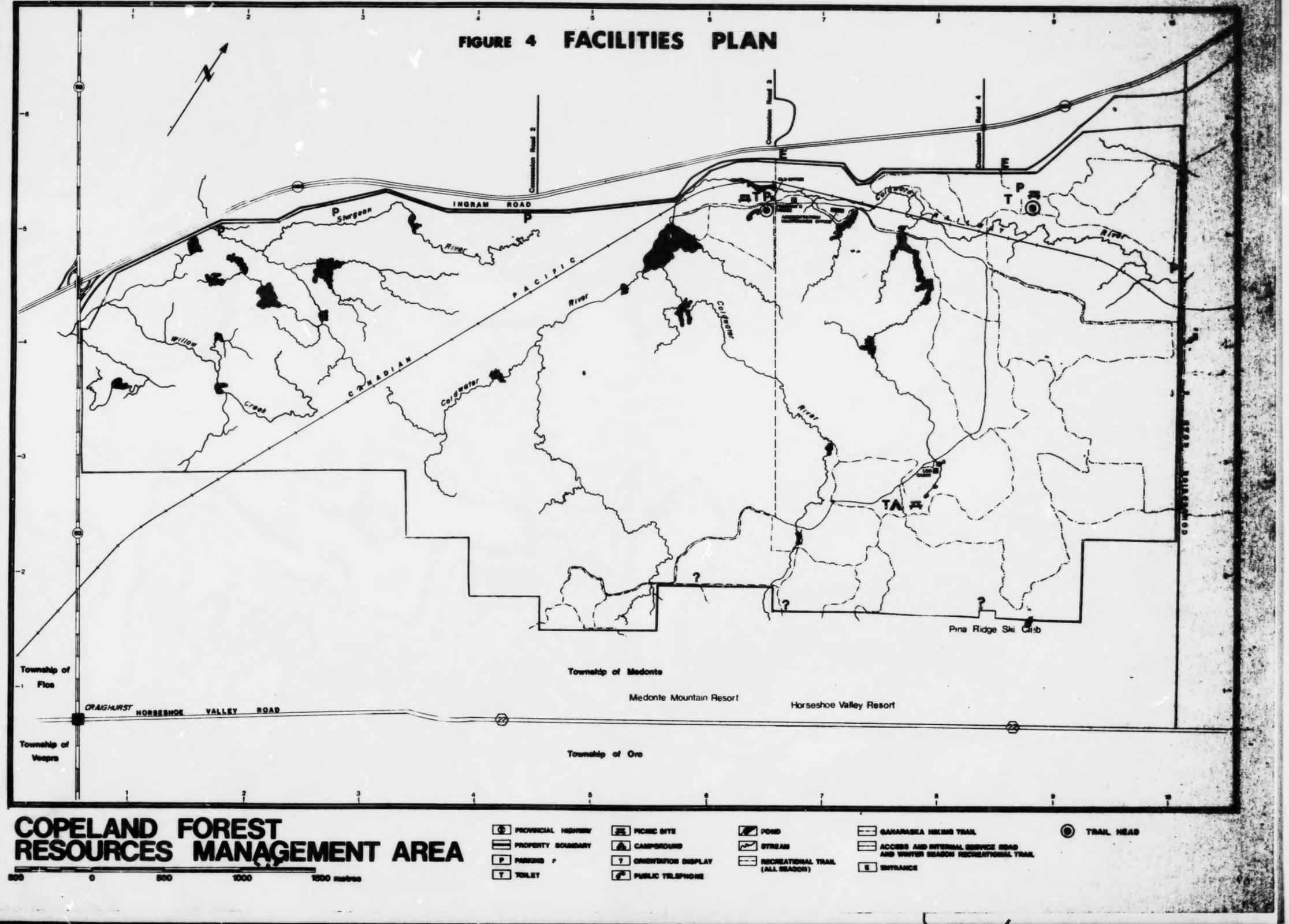
FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

This section outlines the proposed facilities development (figure 4). These facilities will be developed over the next 20 years as the demand warrants it and as funds become available.

Access Facilities

Access facilities are the internal roads, parking areas, fencing, traffic control structures and signage associated with directing vehicular traffic into and out of the property.

FIGURE 4 FACILITIES PLAN



COPELAND FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA

500 0 500 1000 1500 metres

- PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY
- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- PARKING
- TOILET
- PICNIC SITE
- CAMPGROUND
- ORIENTATION DISPLAY
- PUBLIC TELEPHONE
- POND
- STREAM
- RECREATIONAL TRAIL (ALL SEASON)
- GANARASKA HIKING TRAIL
- ACCESS AND INTERNAL SERVICE ROAD AND WINTER SEASON RECREATIONAL TRAIL
- ENTRANCE
- TRAIL HEAD

Internal roads connecting parking lots to the outside road system will be gravel surfaced as will all parking areas.

Parking facilities will have the following capacities:

Access Zone	Capacity	
	Cars	Buses
A-1	100	3
A-2	50	2
A-3	15 (3 locations	0

Use of the parking area in Access Zone A-2 will be restricted to special interest educational and recreational groups which require an area for staging purposes or which desire to avoid interference with other user groups. Groups planning to use the facility will be required to request the approval of the area superintendent in advance of the planned use.

Sanitary Facilities

All toilets will be constructed over concrete sewage holding vaults. One four place vault will be located in Development Zone D-1. All others will be two place vaults. One will be situated in Development Zone D-2 and two in Development Zone D-3.

Sewage pumped from these vaults will be disposed of in disposal sites approved by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's Pollution Control Branch.

The administration/maintenance facility (described below) will be serviced by a septic tank and weeping bed system constructed to specifications approved by the Ministry of the Environment and the County of Simcoe, Public Health Unit.

Water will be provided in all development zones. All drinking water will be tested for bacteria contamination on a weekly basis. Samples will be analyzed by the Ontario Ministry of Health, Regional Public Health Laboratory located in Orillia.

A central garbage collection system will be used to manage solid waste. Bins will be maintained in D-1 and D-2 by a private licenced garbage disposal company.

User Orientation Facilities

Visitors to the Copeland Forest may be confused by the presence of decentralized access facilities. In addition to three access zones, visitors may also enter the property through three ski resorts; Horseshoe Valley Resort, Medonte Mountain Resort and Pine Ridge Ski Club. To reduce the potential for confusion a comprehensive user orientation program will be implemented. It will feature self-use orientation facilities adjacent to access zones A-1 and A-2 and at the three resorts.

At each location visitors will have access to information regarding identification of area boundaries, information on the trails system and the location of sanitary and other facilities. Other pertinent information such as the opening and closing dates of hunting seasons, the locations of current forest and wildlife management operations, and regulations and conditions governing use of the area will also be provided.

Administration/Maintenance Facility

This facility will be designed to accommodate three functions under one roof. The entire facility will be designed for year round use and will be designed to incorporate an energy efficient heating system.

Administration Centre:

. Office space for three staff as well as a small reception area for visitors will be provided.

Equipment Storage/Maintenance:

. Space will be required to store equipment and tools to implement the various management programs. A work area will also be provided.

Group Assembly:

. Educational groups will require indoor space for classroom activities prior to going outdoors or for shelter during inclement weather. Space sufficient to accommodate 40 people will be provided.

. The entire facility will be designed for year round use and will be designed to incorporate an energy efficient heating system.

Campground

Amenities provided at this facility are minimal, in keeping with the primitive type of camping experience being intended.

In addition to water and a vault toilet the area will be equipped with picnic tables, fire pits and garbage receptacles at each site. Fuelwood will be provided for campers.

Retention of vegetation on the sites may be difficult given the sandy soil conditions. Therefore use of the sites will be rotated so that half of them are undergoing rehabilitation each year. Rehabilitation may include soil aeration, addition of topsoil and fertilizer and seeding of hardy grasses.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Environmental Assessment Act (R.S.O. 1980) will be applied to the implementation of this plan. Guidelines and procedures contained in a series of class environmental assessements and exemption orders will be adhered to. Specific development or resource management activities subject to conditions of an exemption order at the time of plan publication may become subject to procedures of a class environmental assessment. Implementation of some activities may be preceded by MNR preparation and M.O.E. approval of an exemption order.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation has been an integral component of the planning program. Phase One occurred in February and March of 1980 to introduce the area and ask for ideas on how to manage it; Phase Two in August and September 1981 followed the release of the draft preliminary plan; Phase Three in November and December of 1982 followed the release of the preliminary master plan. Phases One and Two had a similar format featuring tabloid publications with detachable questionnaires as well as an open house in the hamlet of Craighurst.

Each tabloid was widely distributed throughout Simcoe County and to a mailing list. Local, regional and provincial interest groups were involved in this way. Interest groups and individuals were also invited to submit written briefs.

Phase Two and Three involved submissions of the draft plans to the Township of Medonte and the County of Simcoe, other local agencies, MNR regional and main offices as well as to other affected provincial ministries and private companies (CPR, Horseshoe Valley Resort, Medonte Mountain Resort).

TABLE 2: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

Program Component	Phase One	Phase Two	Phase Three
Tabloids Distributed	35 000	44 700	
Questionnaires Received	650	71	
Briefs Received	23	1	12

Comments received during the three phases of the public participation program have been utilized in the development of this document.